

December 18, 1969

Dear Walt:

Attached is a copy of the letter which I have written to Newsweek and which they have promised to publish. I hope it will serve to rectify a most unfortunate inference in the article.

You should know that I am mortified by this affair and while those who know you could not possibly misconstrue the language of the article, I do ~~think~~ it is necessary to set the record straight.

Warm regards,

15/
Henry A. Kissinger

Attachment

The Honorable Walt W. Rostow
Federal Office Building
300 East 8th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

12/16/69

Dear Sir:

In an otherwise accurate article, Newsweek quotes me as having said to a friend that I refused to "play the game of my predecessor" by talking behind the President's back.

This could be construed as a reference to Walt Rostow, my predecessor in this post, which it most emphatically was not.

I have always felt that it was improper for any Presidential assistant to appear as an independent public spokesman, even more to claim credit for what a President does right and to criticize him later for what goes wrong.

Anyone acquainted with Professor Rostow knows that he supported his President loyally both in public and in private.

Best regards,

/s/

Henry A. Kissinger

The Editor
Newsweek
444 Madison Avenue
New York, New York 10022